



October 2, 2017

Via Electronic Submission

Karen Peltz Strauss, Deputy Chief, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: Notice of Ex Parte - Misuse of Internet Protocol (IP) Captioned Telephone Service,
Telecommunications Relay Services, CG Docket No. 13-24**

Dear Karen,

Thank you so much for your participation during the TEDPA conference. The members appreciated your presentation along with your input during the Q&A session. They especially appreciate your awareness of issues and concerns state EDPs face when serving individuals with IP-CTS equipment.

During TEDPA's annual business meeting on Wednesday, September 13, 2017, the members unanimously agreed to move forward and work with the FCC regarding options for certification/evaluation processes for individuals requesting IP-CTS equipment that could work in their respective states. While the process may vary somewhat from state-to-state, under this arrangement IP-CTS providers could continue marketing their services while directing applicants to state EDPs or their partner programs for completion of the application and a certification/evaluation process.

TEDPA understands the value and importance of IP-CTS service and believes it should be offered to every individual that qualifies for it. Additionally, TEDPA believes that many individuals that currently use the IP-CTS service may benefit from alternative technologies such as an amplified telephone. Most state EDPs currently offer alternative technologies as part of their program services. Furthermore, an overwhelming number of state EDPs agreed that most people (quantified by the Florida program as 8 out of 10) requesting CTS phones end up getting alternative technologies such as amplified telephones when assisted by EDP staff.

Specifics of the process can be determined as more information becomes available. While we agree to work with the FCC, we also agree it's essential that TEDPA be included in future dialogue related to this important process.

TEDPA looks forward to working with you on this project.

Regards,

James Forstall, TEDPA Chair
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CC: TEDPA Board
TEDPA Members